

February 28, 2003

FACT SHEET

FINAL RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR EMISSIONS FROM ASPHALT PROCESSING AND ASPHALT ROOFING MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

TODAY'S ACTION

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a rule to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants, or air toxics, from asphalt processing and asphalt roofing manufacturing facilities. Air toxics are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects in humans.
- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to identify source categories that emit one or more of 188 listed air toxics. Today's rule applies to sources of air toxics in two separate source categories: asphalt processing facilities and asphalt roofing manufacturing facilities. Asphalt processing facilities produce "blown" asphalt for use in the asphalt roofing manufacturing industry and elsewhere. Asphalt roofing manufacturing facilities produce shingles and roll roofing products by applying the "blown" asphalt to a fiberglass or felt substrate. Both types of facilities can be located together but asphalt processing facilities can also be located at refineries.
- The rule applies to each new or existing asphalt processing or asphalt roofing manufacturing facility that is a major source or is located at a major source of air toxic emissions. A major source emits 10 tons a year or more of a single toxic air pollutant, or 25 tons or more of a combination of toxic air pollutants.
- Today's action will reduce gaseous and particulate air toxics emitted at a number of points at these facilities, including blowing stills, asphalt storage tanks, asphalt loading operations, coating mixers, coaters, saturators, wet loopers, and applicators.

BENEFITS AND COST

- EPA's rule will reduce toxic air emissions from asphalt processing and roofing manufacturing facilities by about 95 tons per year. The air toxics reduced include numerous organic compounds such as: formaldehyde, hexane, phenol, polycyclic organic matter, and toluene. Exposure to these air toxics may cause cancer, central nervous system problems, liver damage, respiratory problems and skin irritation.
- The rule will also reduce total hydrocarbon emissions (both gaseous volatile organic compounds (VOC) and particulate matter) by about 512 tons annually. VOC contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog) which can aggravate a number of respiratory diseases, including asthma.

- EPA estimates the total annualized cost of compliance at about \$1.73 million. These costs include adding or upgrading emission control systems, purchasing monitoring systems, and associated emissions or operating parameter monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting of deviations from the standards.
- EPA estimates the rule will increase the price of asphalt roofing products by 0.02 percent or less. No asphalt processing or asphalt roofing manufacturing facility is expected to close as a result of the rule.

WHAT THE FINAL RULE REQUIRES

- Asphalt processing facilities are required to meet emission limitations for each blowing still, asphalt storage tank, and asphalt loading rack. EPA expects both new and existing facilities will use combustion devices as the primary means of control.
- Asphalt roofing manufacturing facilities are required to meet emission or opacity limitations for each coating mixer, coater, saturator, wet looper, asphalt storage tank, and sealant and adhesive applicator. The primary means of control for existing roofing facilities is expected to be a particulate matter control device (e.g., fiberbed filter or electrostatic precipitator) or a combustion device. New facilities are expected to use combustion devices.
- Some emission capture systems and control devices also are required to meet visible emissions and opacity limits (e.g., emissions cannot be visible more than a specific amount of time or exceed a certain opacity or darkness), as well as control device operating limits, such as operating temperature or pressure drop.
- Many facilities subject to the final rule have already installed air pollution control systems required by state rules or federal new source performance standards. Under the Clean Air Act, EPA sets “new source performance standards” to ensure that emissions from newly built or reconstructed facilities meet strict limits.
- EPA anticipates that 18 of the 19 existing facilities that are estimated to be major sources will need to upgrade or install emission control equipment or ductwork to meet the rule requirements.
- The monitoring requirements of the final rule include continuous parameter monitoring systems (CPMS) and visual (visible emissions, opacity) inspections, depending on the type of affected source. CPMS continuously measure control device operating parameters such as temperature or pressure drop. Initial performance tests are also required within 180 days after the compliance date. Performance tests measure whether or not the source is meeting the emission standards.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download a copy of the rule, go to EPA's World Wide Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/>.
- For further information about the rule, contact Mr. Rick Colyer of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-5262 or colyer.rick@epa.gov.
- EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on the air toxics program, as well as many other air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.